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(pretty good)

# Inaugural Dissertation

On

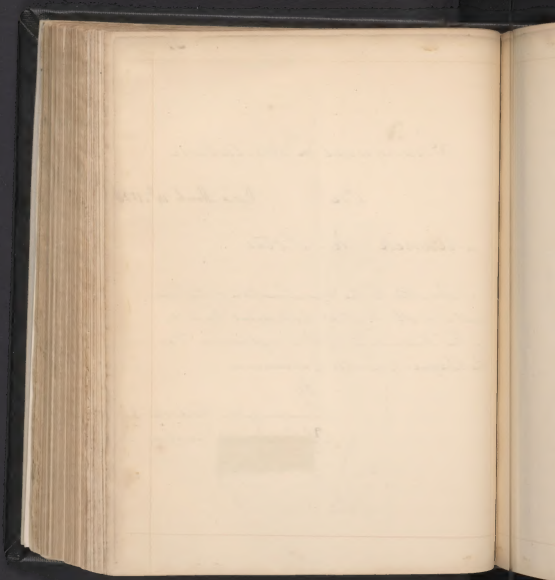
Paper March 14<sup>th</sup> 1826

## Mania à Potu.

Submitted to the Examination of the Reverend  
and Provest, Trustees, & Medical Faculty  
of the University of Pennsylvania - For  
the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

By  
Phineas Miller, Holliston, A.D.  
Of Savannah, Georgia. -

1825.





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The embarrassment & difficulty of select-  
ing a subject for a medical Thesis amidst  
the variety which must attract the attention  
of the student who has been engaged in pre-  
paring himself as a candidate for a degree,  
& whose knowledge of them is principally  
confined to what he has been able to derive  
from books & lectures, can only be equalled  
by that of treating the subject he has been  
fortunate enough to decide on, in a man-  
ner most suitable to the occasion, & the  
best which attending circumstances will  
admit. Of this embarrassment it has been  
my lot to experience no inconsiderable  
share, & after much hesitation I have ven-  
tured on a subject involved in much ob-  
scurity, but not the less interesting to the  
medical profession. Although I cannot hope  
to present any thing novel or original,

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I trust I shall not fail to show at least that I have endeavored to understand the pains which have been taken of it by those who have turned their attention to it more particularly, & have had ample opportunity & ability for its investigation; & that I have not been altogether inattentive to the cases which have come under <sup>my</sup> notice during my attendance at the ~~asylum~~ <sup>asylum</sup> & Hospital.

The contemplation of humanity while labouring under any of the innumerable forms of disease with which it is beset, must ever be a source of pain to the mind of sensibility & sympathy. We can mark without emotion the blighted form of youth & beauty; the cheek which but yesterday was flushed with health, & red with the rose in freshness, now pale & wan; the eye which sparkled with the fire of youth, & beamed forth

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with unclouded brightness, now closed & sunk  
in; the lips which gave utterance to the merr-  
y sounds of wit & humour, or the tender  
voice of love, now silent & livid; the bosom  
which beat high with joy & hope, now oppressed  
with grief & despair? Who can contemplate  
such a spectacle, without dropping a tear over  
the frailty of human excellence & loveliness?

To witness such scenes must ever affect  
even the sturmiest, but every day's experience  
is continually presenting them to our view  
& teaches us to consider them the necessary  
concomitants of the frail temperament we in-  
habit. We are consoled in a measure by the  
reflection that the most beautiful & lovely  
form is the creature of a moment, that it  
must necessarily soon fade away, & be con-  
verted into those gross materials of which it  
is composed; that there is an immortal &

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immortal principle mention to which it owes  
all its existence, & which will ever remain long  
after the body shall have crumbled to dust & ashes.  
With this cheering reflection we are  
enabled often to bear with ease some of the  
most cruel trials which mortal nature is  
subjected to. But in our new world disease is so  
constant in the harassing the body & causing  
severe pain & the most beautiful & agreeable  
in nature, nature is its beautiful influence  
on the mind itself, determining reason  
from her empire & protesting to a most de-  
plorable state of the faculties which when  
under pain is not only & directed by a man, &  
endowment, constitutes man the noblest  
work of the creation & immeasurably dis-  
tinguishes him above all other orders of crea-  
-ture, we feel as if we were delivered from  
test & torment & joy, & as if there were no

*[Faint handwritten notes]*

more left a reason to rest our hopes of the fu-  
ture. That by far immediately before there  
is seen in these circumstances, yet one re-  
source to which we may look with no more  
degree of confidence. & which may stand afloat  
about in the most trying scenes. The eternal  
but not furnished means by which man  
may have been raised from the most  
wretched state. And will man be satisfied in  
the words of the great Lord "Will I dwell  
in a land that extends its friendly embrace  
not only over the sons of the house, but over  
those of the wilderness & the wilderness men!"

Could man have remained in that sin-  
nerial, servile state & confined himself to those  
whites which continue doubtless in the air  
for him, & in which the pious man could  
have been content to breathe the pure  
air of the mountain, instead of the infect-

1. The first of these is the fact that the  
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ed at one place of the city, depending upon the  
moral & genius of the priest, for his commitment  
& the numerous houses for his kindred he would  
unquestionably secure more than necessary  
with a host of diseases which are now the  
 scourge of his race. This being known by health-  
ful persons would have been found amidst the  
multitudes of the diseased & his mind, im-  
paired by passion, would have remained  
calm & undisturbed by care.

There is probably no disease to which  
the preceding observation is more applicable  
than that which is the subject of our pre-  
sent consideration. It has originated en-  
tirely in the progress of Christian Refine-  
ment, & is the consequence of the introduc-  
tion of a poison which invariably attends  
their march. The baneful effects which  
have resulted from the indolent use





of ancient should have been too frequently dwelt  
on to make him any elaborate dissertation  
on the subject necessary at this time. I have  
wanted to do something to show that  
it is not a new thing, but it is  
the same as the old. But it exposed the system  
to attacks & defenses which it would then  
have been & tried in an enormous degree  
to baffle the spirit of passion in  
this treatment. The course which we are  
about to pursue is one of the same order  
following it alone says the Government & a  
few able men who are at Athens concern  
that is sufficient to prevent a serious course  
& there remains only the question of  
the course. The result of the debate being  
known & the system found to be the right one  
we have to take the whole inevitably neces-  
sary and inevitable consequence of any such thing



show a wound & lesion or even some evidence  
of degeneration, in the muscle or skin  
or in the cells of the tumor.

The tumors which are the subject of this dis-  
cussion are those which are adjacent to the skin &  
which are attached to an internal structure  
either occasionally or habitually. more pre-  
sented to the latter.

The object of these tumors in the dis-  
cussion is to elevate it above the natural stand-  
ard & this elevation is always followed by  
a corresponding depression equally far be-  
low the standard, as soon as the elevation  
has ceased. When this is the case of the above  
description, then the tumor is said to be  
more than usual, for a longer  
or shorter time, & then return to their usual  
state, or the above description, the same  
or the same, or the same, or the same, or the same



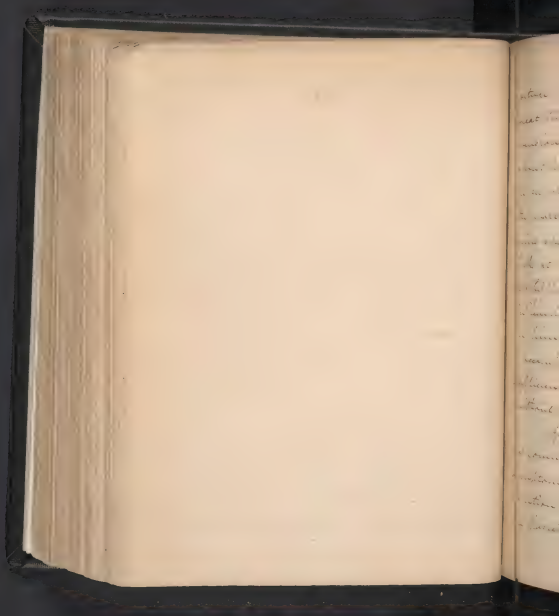
above the system is left in a state of depression  
entirely, admitting to itself & they are seen  
in with a train of symptoms & in most dis-  
tressing nature which are attendant on the  
disease in question.

The symptoms which have been observed first  
to make their appearance & which are the im-  
mediate precursors of the disease are such as  
excite great derangement in the digestive ab-  
sorption, together with all the vital circumstances  
of it. The sensibility is impaired very much al-  
tered there is a coldness & quickness of look  
with an expression of anxiety. There is in-  
digestion, oppression at the pit of the stomach  
nausea & sometimes retching & vomiting,  
the bowels sometimes relaxed at other times  
constipated, together with pain & heaviness  
in the head. The tongue is furred first generally  
moist. The pulse is variable, generally more



firmament than nature itself easily can possess.  
The skin at first is very hot & dry, is usually brown-  
ish, smooth, & of a natural firm texture. There is  
also most commonly a trembling of the skin  
often of the limbs. The sound often increases but does  
transiently soon the commencement, the patient  
imagines he hears strange sounds, swarms of  
great insects for his natural sagacity & extreme  
activity & unable to sleep so that it is with  
great difficulty he can be induced to lie down.

As the disease advances the delirium in-  
creases & becomes constant night & day & the  
restlessness is incessant. The delirium in  
these cases sometimes assumes more or less  
that in mania. The patient coordinates him-  
self, wills his wife to dress & throw it about  
the room. He is often seized with paroxysms  
of inconceivable strength, which however are  
succeeded by great muscular relaxation & his





store. Commonly however the mind exhibits  
great facility, & is excited in several of its  
visions. The student imagines that some one  
about him is engaged in reading, but a situation  
in his school which are not subject to such an  
the noise in the atmosphere, until some one  
him about it sometimes. When he has he  
look at his school & is continually moving  
and the person is sent to the room to the other  
in front of the house in some great noise fall  
in time. There rest so I believe is the person  
to receive him the house that they are almost  
sublimed of themselves to determine in distance  
without any thing else.

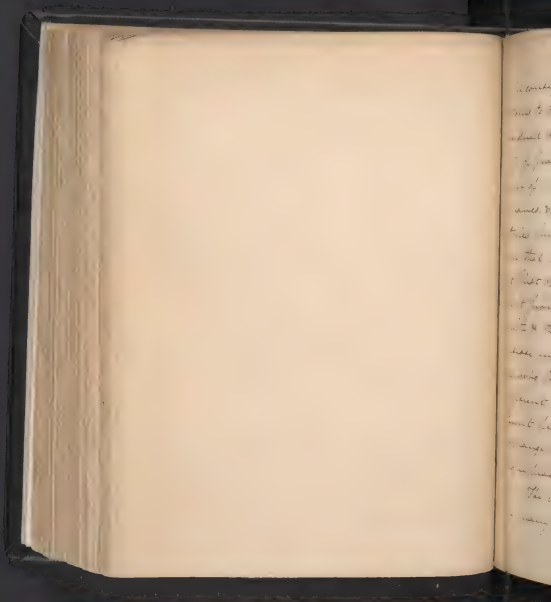
If the student it happens to come as it  
has commenced and that immediately all the  
symptoms are aggravated & the amount of dis-  
solution is some manifest. The conversation  
is just incoherence. He then becomes

[illegible]

cool & circling, sometimes mixed with agitated  
movement. The pulse is sometimes rapid & higher with  
continuous dull, throbbing, sometimes with  
intermittent, which soon terminates life,  
or intermittent, sometimes with some kind of  
paroxysm in death.

This disease may sometimes with violence  
be then done on a weak constitution with more  
moderation, for a longer time, producing some  
of the same form.

There is no part of the subject which is  
involved in more solemnity & which is less in-  
structive to practitioners than that which re-  
lates to the precise state of the system or the  
proximate cause, which gives rise to the  
symptoms & the disease. The one is important  
to the Dr. & others in the course of the subject,  
that when the disease first made its appear-  
ance in the neighbourhood where he resided;



in consequence of the similarity of the symp-  
toms to those of idiopathic Phrenitis, it was con-  
sidered as essentially the same by the general-  
ity of practitioners at consulting in a crisis the  
use of antiphlogistics of the brain & its mem-  
branes, & requiring copious depletion, reason-  
ing very far as usually recommended  
in that disease. The says that he himself was  
at first of this opinion & treated it accordingly,  
but from the want of success which he met  
with & the very great success with which the  
disease was treated by another set of practitioners  
as who had learnt from experience to take a  
different view of it, & who, having a more dis-  
punct view & treatment he was induced  
to change his opinions. & at last fell upon the  
same practice.

The resemblance which this disease bears  
in many respects both to Phrenitis & Delirium,



might have been some instances. In regard at least  
sight to consider their intolerance the same. But  
believe that the ~~former~~ intolerance is not as severe as  
ascribed to Phlegma & the most conclusive  
contradicts this, there are some points of dis-  
similarity in the symptoms which generally at-  
tend, which may be well assist in determin-  
ing the diagnosis according to Dr. Sutherland this  
disease, which is called "Delirium Tremens" does  
not commence so suddenly as Phlegma. but  
it may often be known that the disease has  
been coming on for some time. There is not  
the intolerance of sight which generally at-  
tends the latter, and the terms which usually  
accompany the former, are seldom ob-  
served in Phlegma. The state of the mind al-  
though sometimes resembling that in genuine  
mania is generally different. The man  
is usually more in & disturbed some

[illegible]



ivate affairs. & exhibits great humility with  
respect to every person & thing & does not ac-  
cuse the remembrance even of what has un-  
dergone his mind. The author just referred  
to in his previous volumes, that Dr Saunders thinks  
there is something peculiar in the motion  
of the hands in this disease. "As if the patient  
might with unperpet vision be searching  
for things & occasionally casually catching &  
avoiding them."

The associations which have been made in  
this disease do not prove as satisfactorily as might  
be desired what is exactly the constitution of the  
circumstances on which the "harmless" mani-  
festations of disease have been observed.  
In various parts of the work the writer has men-  
tioned the facts which would be most likely to  
draw the attention, have been found in a state  
of themselves the mind being completely free of



Some of the same are repeated, but in various  
in the reduction of the disease is most rather  
by a combination of it occurring immediately  
to the heart. Some write the symptoms as if  
they were <sup>the</sup> generally, absent at that time.

The various of the symptoms are either more common  
in various other diseases. In the case of this  
in which, particularly in the case of the heart, the  
symptoms are attended by a number of symptoms, the  
symptoms of the disease are, at other times  
absent.

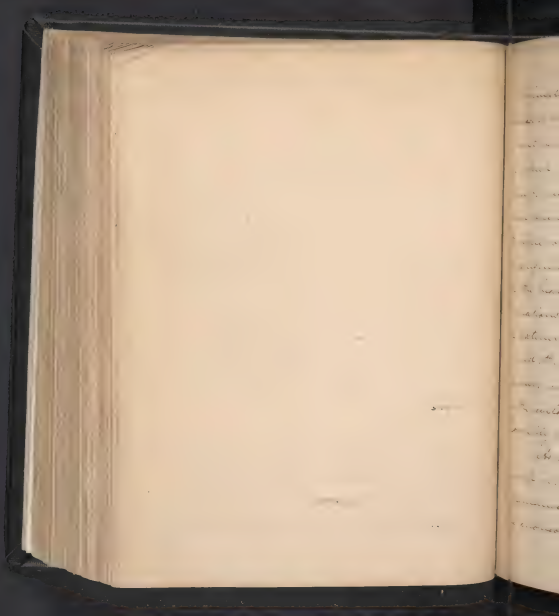
There is a general use of alcohol in the  
in a case of immediate use of alcohol in the  
the. This use is indeed sufficient to produce a  
a great deal of interest in all the symptoms  
but as they were immediate, & were more  
severe than the symptoms of the other disease  
in the case, it might be said that these  
symptoms & signs of the disease were not the same.

*Handwritten note at the top of the left page.*

*Handwritten text on the right page, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.*

have with that of the vaccination in which they  
are found & when in the vaccination  
exists, the same phenomena could be im-  
aged. In the ordinary manner we observe the  
descent under consideration to make the ex-  
istence in human beings susceptible to an  
increase of the virus & in them the virus  
multiplies & when they have either  
died or this virus actually increases in  
their individuals. Besides persons in  
this condition have been observed after death  
in whom the virus were found in the same  
advanced state & who seem had an attack of  
the disease.

From these considerations we cannot but acknowledge that the 3 elements which are isolated are subdivisions of these called as not continuously present for the element are observed & one must look further for a









strategy. "I am so much more to be feared in  
my mind than a disease is, it may make a  
man immortal, unless the most violent anti-  
bodies be produced in 1800." "The scientific  
community will be attracted with the interest of the  
in & out of the mind, and the mind will be much more  
in the case that the doctor told us in was  
informed in a discussion, his maintenance was  
was in the habit of maintaining it, that he should  
have such a great to be made, in a discussion almost  
more abundant as to be to be made in a great state"

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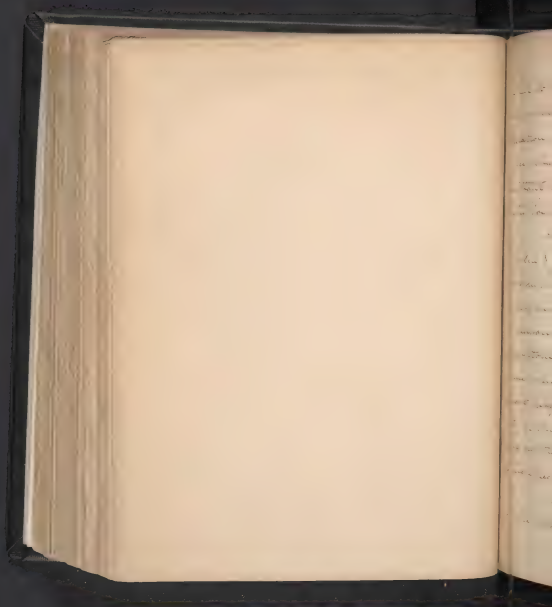


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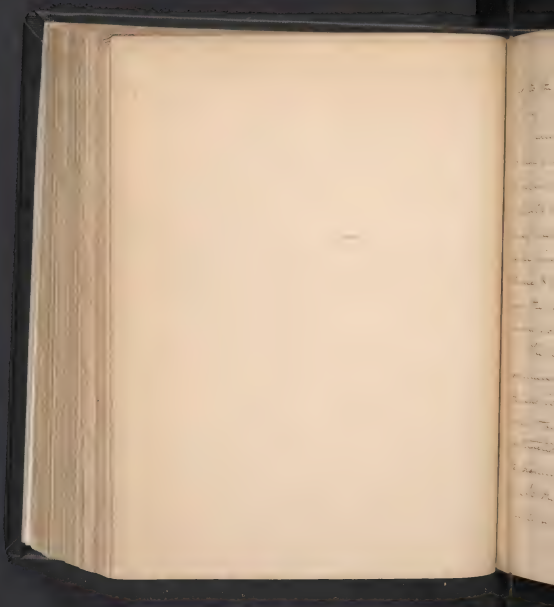


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The report of the committee which have been given to me this morning is in substance that the committee have been instructed to -- to the committee to --

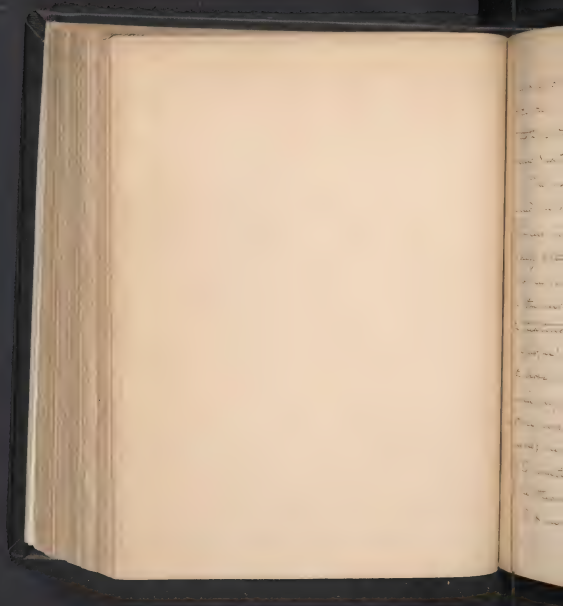








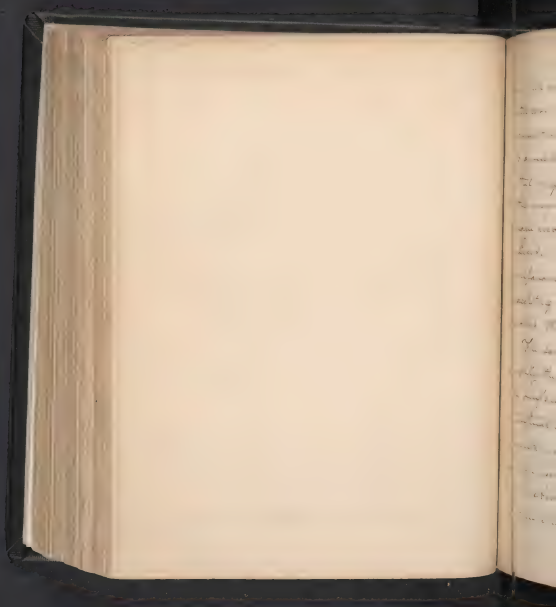


















The first of these is the fact that the  
 nature of the soil is such that the  
 water is not absorbed by the soil  
 but runs off the surface. This is  
 due to the fact that the soil is  
 composed of small particles of  
 sand and gravel, which do not  
 hold the water. The water is  
 therefore not available to the  
 plants. This is a serious defect  
 in the soil. The second defect is  
 the fact that the soil is not  
 fertile. It is composed of sand  
 and gravel, which do not contain  
 the necessary nutrients for the  
 plants. This is also a serious  
 defect in the soil. The third defect  
 is the fact that the soil is not  
 well drained. It is composed of  
 sand and gravel, which do not  
 drain the water away from the  
 plants. This is also a serious  
 defect in the soil.

There is certainly a very good reason for the  
X-orientation canal present in these areas  
4. In fact, don't know very clearly the  
relation of an electric sound to the structure of the  
structure, consequence of the sound is a  
first sound, X-orientation is naturally in the  
second sound, but even in the third sound  
of the system, say that it will be very  
all the same, an indiscriminate use of







will be found to answer in every case.

It is only by attending to the state of the system, watching the symptoms as they arise, & adapting remedies to the circumstances, each case, that any man can hope to practice with success.

And he who is thus careful with respect to these circumstances, & pursues this just & philosophic course, will alone reap the well-earned fruits of his exertions, & rise an ornament to his profession, & an useful citizen of his Country. - - - - -

End.



